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Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991)

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# Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): Letter to the Editor 05

Joel Conarroe

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which professional experience with turbo-generators and has been active in the investigation of seven hydrogen fires.

They were amazed that the small tear in the transformer casing caused by the shock of an electrical short circuit had been described by the media and misguided politicians as having "burst open by an explosion." There was no evidence of an explosion.

The conclusion was that the power-plant people had handled the short circuit and resulting hydrogen fire precisely in accordance with the best-established practice for combating a hydrogen flame.

The onsite examination, in which I participated, reinforced my belief in the ability, honesty and professional knowledge of the Yankee power-plant personnel.

SAMUEL P. CROSBY  
Emergency Management Director  
Town of Georgetown

Georgetown, Maine

## Soldier, There's Dust On Your Rear Fenders

Having served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, I was amused by your April 23 page-one article on Oman. As an Army Reserve physician, I was affiliated with an evacuation hospital based in Oman. Fortunately, there were very few American casualties, so some of us were assigned to assist at the Omani hospitals near Muscat.

Each time we went to the hospital we would have to spray-rinse our car, then wash it again upon return to our base. At first I thought this to be part of an Army "spit-and-polish" program, but soon was informed of the correct reason. Oman has a \$100 (equivalent) fine for driving a dirty car. Since I never saw a dirty car, nor even one with dents or other displeasing blemishes, I now assume the sultan's decree for spotlessness is the reason.

C. PETER GOODNOUGH, M.D.  
Elmira, N.Y.

Phoenix, Ariz

## Talent, Not Color, Won Them Pulitzers

Your May 23 editorial about literary critic Carol Iannone's nomination to the National Council on the Humanities takes me to task for describing as nonsense her claim that "black writers demanded and obtained the Pulitzer Prize" for Toni Morrison. I stand by my opinion. A group of black writers did, as the editorial points out, publish a petition in support of Ms. Morrison, but the absurd claim that they "obtained" a prize for her is not supported by any evidence whatsoever. Had Ms. Iannone taken the trouble to talk with administrators of the Pulitzer Prizes before committing herself to print she would have been disabused of her bizarre theory.

Having served on fiction juries for the Pulitzer Prizes, the National Book Awards and the National Book Critics' Circle, I think I am in a position to suggest that these boards are not swayed by external pressure. Moreover, contrary to Ms. Iannone's assertion, they are certainly not engaged in literary welfare. Surely one does not have to be "politically correct" to find condescending, both to writers and to juries, her insistence that the superb black novelists who have won major literary awards in recent years were selected only because of their color.

JOEL CONARROE

New York

WSJ 6/7/91

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## Pepper . . . and Salt

### Beat Generation

What happened to waltzes  
And all those slow pieces?  
With every new dance step  
The tempo increases.  
I fear for the future  
When I'm an old man.  
Already I'm dancing  
As fast as I can!

—Henry F. Hill.

### . . . and Phone Number

The number of worthy causes  
today  
is so large I can only  
guess;  
The real surprise is that so  
many  
Have my name and address.

—George O. Ludcke.

### Daffynition

Track star: jumping jock.  
—Daisy Brown.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"In conclusion, I hope you go out there and get some great graduation gifts."